

Serial No. 10/616,306

REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on 10 July 2003.

Claims 1-3, 6, and 8-36 are pending. Claims 4, 5, and 7 have been canceled. Claims 27-36 are new. Claims 6, 11, 15-18 and 20-26 are withdrawn. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The disclosure was objected to for minor informalities. The informalities noted by the examiner and others have been corrected. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 7 and 12 were objected to for minor informalities. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claim 12 has been clarified as suggested by the examiner. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1-5 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese patent to Manaka ('073). Claims 1-5 were further rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese patent to Takano ('417) in view of the Japanese patent to

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Manaka. The applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 4 and 7. Original claim 7 was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 3, 6 and 8-26, which depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1, should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 27-36 are new. Claim 27 includes all the limitations of original claims 1 and 12. Original claim 12 was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 27 and claims 28-30, which depend on claim 27, are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 includes all of the limitations of original claims 1, 2, 13 and 14. Original claim 14 was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 31 and new dependent claims 32-34, which depend on claim 31, should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 35 includes all of the limitations of original claims 1 and 19. Original claim 19 was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 35 and new dependent claim 36, which depends on claim 35, should be in condition for allowance.

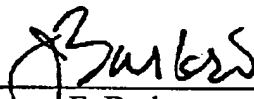
Since the withdrawn claims 6, 11, 15-18 and 20-26 depend on claim 1, which is considered to be in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the withdrawn claims

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In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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